

REMARKS

Prior to the present response, claims 1-21 were pending. By way of the above amendments, claims 1-21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 22-41 have been added. Accordingly, claims 22-41 currently are pending.

Support for new claims 22-41 is found throughout the originally filed disclosure. For instance, support for independent claims 22 and 32 is found, for example, in the specification, as pages 7-19 and in Figures 4-9, 11 and 12, especially at page 7, lines 17-20, page 8, lines 2-3, page 10, lines 15-25, and page 16, line 14 to page 17, line 3, page 19, lines 10-24, and in Figure 12. Support for new independent claims 29 and 39 is provided, for example, in pages 7-20 of the specification and in Figures 4-17, especially at page 7, lines 17-20, page 8, lines 2-3, page 10, lines 15-25, page 19, lines 10-24, page 20, lines 5-7, and in Figures 16 and 17.

In the Office Action dated August 5, 2003, the Examiner raised several objections in connection with the drawings. In response to these objections, Applicant attached to the Amendment dated December 17, 2003, a drawing sheet including proposed changes (corresponding amendments also were made to the specification). The most recent Office Action, however, does not indicate whether these changes overcome the objections. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate whether the proposed drawing changes are acceptable.

The Office Action includes a rejection of claim 1-6, 8-11, 13-15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ono et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,136), and a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of claims 7, 12, 16 and 21, as allegedly being unpatentable over a combination of the Ono et al. patent and Nakazato et al.¹ (U.S. Patent No. 5,762,329). As noted above, Applicant has canceled claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, the rejections of claims 1-21 have been rendered moot. Additionally, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections to the extent that the Office may consider them to apply to new claims 22-41.

Each of independent claims 22 and 32 recites, among other features, "displaying a window which shows a plurality of setting results set on the plurality of entry screens as a

¹ Although the January 30, 2004 Office Action cites "Kimoto et al." (U.S. Patent No. 5,390,005) in the grounds of rejection, the body of the rejection refers to "Nakazato et al." In a telephonic conference on July 28, 2004, Examiner Zhou clarified that the reference to Kimoto et al. is an error and that the Nakazato et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,762,329) should have been cited.

diagram, said diagram having different shapes depending on the setting results.” It is respectfully submitted that the Ono et al. patent fails to teach or suggest this feature, whether considered alone or in any combination with the Kimoto et al. patent.

The Ono et al. patent discloses a settings screen corresponding to the “Main tab CD3.” in which a data display section E4 includes displayed “Current Settings.” (See, column 11, lines 44-47, column 12, lines 61-64, and Figure 5.) However, in contrast to displaying the setting results as a diagram, as recited in claims 22 and 32, settings in the window E4 of Ono et al. are displayed as text characters. (See, display areas E42-E45 in Figure 5 and column 15, lines 39-43.) While it is noted that the Current Settings data display section E4 shows icons showing generic representations of types of settings (e.g., icons left of “Paper Size,” “Orientation” and so on), these icons appear to remain constant no matter what particular setting is made for a respective display area. That is, they do not show setting results set on the plurality of entry screens and having different shapes depending on the setting results, as set forth in independent claims 22 and 32.

The Ono et al. patent also fails to disclose the combination of features set forth in independent claims 29 and 39, which includes, *inter alia*, “displaying a window within entry screens, said window showing a plurality of setting results set on the plurality of entry screens and continuing to be displayed even if the entry screen is switched to another entry screen.” In contrast, the “Current Settings” of display section E4 of Ono et al. is displayed only on the “Main” screen, as shown in Figure 5. Other screens in the Ono et al. system do not have a setting window. (See, e.g., Figures 4 and 7.)

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Ono et al. patent fails to anticipate the combinations of features recited in independent claims 22, 29, 32 and 39, and hence also in their respective dependent claims.

The Office Action also cites the Nakazato et al. patent for allegedly teaching detection means for detecting a combination of set values at which the image processing apparatus cannot operate and post processing functions performed after printing. (See page 6, section 4, lines 8-11 and page 7, lines 10-12. However, the Nakazato et al. patent is silent with respect to displaying a window that shows a plurality of settings results set on a plurality of entry screens, as set forth in independent claims 22, 29, 32 and 33. Hence, Nakazato et al. does not teach or suggest displaying results set as a diagram, as recited in claims 22 and 32, and continuing to displaying the window even if the entry screen is switched to another entry

screen, as recited in claims 29 and 39. The Nakazato et al. patent, therefore, does not remedy the deficiencies pointed out above with respect to the Ono et al. patent.

For at least these reasons, the proposed combination of the Ono et al. Nakazato et al. patents fails to teach or suggest the combinations of each and every feature set forth in the independent claims 22, 29, 32 and 39. As such, the pending independent claims are patentable.

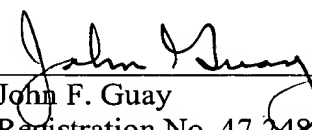
Dependent claims 23-28 30, 31, 33-38, 40 and 41 depend from one of independent claims 22, 29, 32 and 39 and are therefore allowable at least because they each depend from an allowable independent claim. Additionally, the dependent claims recite combinations including additional features not taught or suggested in the cited documents. Because the distinctions recited in the independent claims are clear, a detailed analysis of these differences is not believed necessary at this time. However, Applicants respectfully submit that separately patentable subject matter exists. Applicants reserve the right to challenge any interpretation of the Ono et al. and Nakazato et al. documents by the Examiner with respect to the dependent claims at a later time, if appropriate and necessary.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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